

Partners, Creating the Future - PSRML at the Joint Meeting

by Beryl Glitz

ARIZONA

CALIFORNIA

HAWAII

NEVADA

PACIFIC BASIN

Following the theme of the 1998 Joint Medical Library Association (MLA) Chapter Meeting, PSRML staff provided information and updates to conference attendees about recent activities with some of their many partners in the region: librarians from Primary Access Libraries (PALs), Resource Libraries (RLs), MLA chapters, and non-health sciences libraries; non-library organizations; and, the National Library of Medicine. Below are some of the highlights presented; please contact our office if you would like more details on any of these items.

PALs:

- PSRML is forming a small Study Group on Electronic Document Delivery to discuss some of the many issues facing libraries in today's complex, digital environment. The first issue to be addressed is the feasibility of using an electronic billing system for reimbursement for ILL charges within the region. Resource Libraries have expressed interest in such a system to simplify billing; other regions have developed systems which might serve as possible models. Members will be drawn from RLs, PALs, and MLA chapters.
- Outreach subcontracts - Pat Auflick from the Rural Health Office, University of Arizona, and Roger

Brudnow from Goddard Memorial Library, Oroville Hospital, CA were awarded funding in 1997, through these subcontracts, to provide outreach to improve access to information for health professionals in rural areas. Pat and Roger described their experiences in writing a successful proposal and in carrying out their projects. They later were available at the PSRML booth to share details with interested network members. PSRML hopes to be able to offer similar subcontracts in year three of the contract which begins May 1, 1998.

Resource Libraries:

- The University of Arizona Health Sciences Library arranged the successful telemedicine conference, held the day before the joint meeting, which 150 people attended. [See separate article].
- PSRML is currently negotiating with the University of Nevada Savitt Medical Library for an Internet connectivity project in which the Library, in conjunction with the state's AHEC, will provide access and training in use of the Internet to three rural sites in the state.
- The Library and Center for Knowledge Management at the University of California San Francisco is currently conducting an evaluation of BioSites, the Web-

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Latitudes

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based listing of valuable Internet resources in the biomedical sciences. The sites included in BioSites have been evaluated and selected by staff in all twelve Resource Libraries. UCSF is collecting and analyzing usage data, and has been surveying users for reactions to the site. As a second part of the evaluation, a group of representatives from each RL will be meeting in March to discuss BioSites from their viewpoint as contributors.

MLA Chapters:

For several years, PSRML has worked with both the Medical Library Group of Southern California and Arizona (MLGSCA) and the Northern California and Nevada Medical Library Group (NCNMLG) to sponsor programs as part of the Joint Meeting. This year the program featured a panel on consumer health information [See separate article]. In order to increase access to the information presented by the panel, speaker presentations will be mounted on the PSRML Web site. PSRML staff hope to continue this tradition by working with NCNMLG for a program or class at the next meeting, to be held in San Jose in February 1999.

Non-Health Sciences Libraries:

As part of our outreach activities, PSRML staff often work with non-health sciences libraries in order to facilitate information access to health providers in various parts of the region, especially areas which have no local hospital or medical center library. Several of these libraries, primarily in community colleges, are in fact Network members since they serve health sciences students or providers as part of their primary user groups. On a larger scale, PSRML has been involved in statewide efforts, within California, to expand access to health information by working with all types of libraries, through our involvement with the Library of California initiative, an evolving multitype library network. PSRML staff have served on a variety of committees and task forces to further the goals and programs of this emerging network. One such program is

the California Statewide Serials Project which will link serials holdings from three databases: CULP (primarily public libraries); CALLS (academic libraries) and a subset of SERHOLD including holdings of participating California DOCLINE libraries. Eligible libraries in the state will be contacted soon with further details of how they can participate in this project. For details, see the article on page 6.

Non-Library partners:

A new partnership has been developed with the California Department of Health Services to provide training in the use of the Internet to staff in thirteen rural California counties. The TelePH Project (Tele-Education in Public Health) is an experiment in using video teleconferencing to train public health nurses to search the Internet (see *Latitudes* vol. 6, no. 6, November/December 1997, for further details).

The National Library of Medicine:

As our "ultimate" partner, NLM provides the funding and direction for all PSRML programs and services. PSRML was happy to have Becky Lyon, Head of the National Network office and Karen Hajarian, Director, MEDLARS Promotion, at the meeting, representing NLM.

News for our Network Partners:

Information on a number of ongoing programs and services was provided as part of the PSRML update. Highlights are included below.

- The deadline for updating SERHOLD records, is May 31, 1998; after that date an annual tape of regional holdings will be ordered from NLM. Since DOCLINE routing is dependent on the quality of serials holdings, it's important that libraries keep theirs accurate. A March mailing to all eligible libraries will include online updating instructions as well as a list of individuals willing to update records for other institutions, and contact information for Area SERHOLD Coordinators.
- A new Network Membership directory

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ON THE (WET) ROAD - By the Bay and Over the Rivers

By Claire Hamasu & Heidi Sandstrom

Heidi Sandstrom and Claire Hamasu spent four days in January with Network member librarians in Northern California. They attended the January 27 Executive Board and Business meetings of NCNMLG and the evening program that followed. They subsequently conducted a series of workshops in San Francisco and Sacramento.

At the NCNMLG meetings, Heidi and Claire updated members on NLM and PSRML developments and enjoyed hearing about this MLG's involvement in various projects. Tom Rindfleisch, guest speaker for the evening program, drew upon his experience with the Committee on Maintaining Privacy and Security in Healthcare Applications of the National Information Infrastructure to explore the security and confidentiality of the patient record in the digital age. One of the committee's findings is that it is not the computer hacker that threatens confidentiality, as much as it is the lack of policies and regulations that apply to the myriad number of personnel in the healthcare industry who handle patient records (e.g. health insurance employees). For The Record: Protecting

Electronic Health Information is the result of the committee's work. You can read it online or order it from the National Academy Press at URL: <http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/enter2.cgi?0309056977.html>

What a treat it was to use two new training labs for our workshops, one at the Barnett Briggs Medical Library at San Francisco General Hospital, the other at the UC Davis Medical Center Library. Special thanks to Rick Scott at Barnett Briggs and to Terri Malmgren at the Medical Center Library for making all the arrangements for these workshops.

Class participants at the "Resource Sharing Workshop" were introduced to a number of the lesser know features of DOCLINE and its related systems. Future challenges/opportunities for document delivery in the Internet environment were also discussed. Class participants of the "IGM & PubMed: For the Librarian" class were challenged to visualize a working version of PubMed as NLM fixed the PubMed bugs in the first week of a new release. Suggestions from class attendees for improving the interface were compiled and forwarded to the National

Library of Medicine. The most frequent requests included the ability to abbreviate subheadings, set searching capability, and the addition of the metathesaurus.

Following the San Francisco workshops, Heidi Sandstrom was given a tour of the Patient Education Resource Center (PERC), located within the Barnett-Briggs Medical Library. This Center has an extensive collection of patient education pamphlets that serves the needs of the San Francisco community. Following the Sacramento workshop, and in the midst of El Nino's fury, Heidi Sandstrom also visited several libraries in the Sacramento area. These included the Sutter/CHS Health Resource Center Library, the Mercy Healthcare Sacramento Regional Library, the VERY NEW Sutter Roseville Medical Center, and the California State Library. It's a pleasure to see the many ways services are implemented at the "front lines"!

PSRML staff haven't had the opportunity for an extended visit in Northern California in some time. Many thanks to all for such a welcome reception—we're looking forward to our return! ✪

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is being designed; samples of two possible formats were made available at the PSRML booth for comments.

- PSRML is working with the MLA chapters to produce their union lists; a regional format has been formalized and lists will be produced later in February. Libraries wishing to order a copy of their list should contact the appropriate chapter officer.
- PSRML has been developing an updated registry of consultants who are willing to work with health professionals, librarians, and other individuals who call PSRML for assistance with a variety of library and information concerns. Those who register are not obligated to accept consulting assignments and are free to set their own fee schedule. These are negotiated on an individual basis with the person requesting assistance. Initial response to the PSRML registry questionnaire was low. For those willing to act as a consultant, forms are available from PSRML and a copy is included in this issue of *Latitudes*.
- Changes to the MEDLINE search interface - After the June 1997 announcement by NLM concerning free access through Internet Grateful Med (IGM) and PubMed to MEDLINE and other NLM databases, the library scheduled the final Fundamentals of MEDLINE searching classes. A new series of classes was planned for 1998, to teach librarians how to use IGM and PubMed to do mediated searching. In a related move, in January 1998, Donald Lindberg

confirmed that the Elhill search system would have to be replaced, as NLM moves all its databases from a mainframe to a client-server environment. Dr. Lindberg's message was sent in part to reassure librarians that NLM is committed to having an "acceptable command language replacement" before Elhill disappears. He also asked for feedback from health sciences librarians, to be sent to NLM, on the performance and functional requirements of the replacement system. Two weeks ago NLM released a new version of PubMed that includes features specifically geared for those who do mediated searching. PSRML encourages all searches to try the new system and send their comments either to NLM or to PSRML to forward them, so that the new interface will take advantage of the new capabilities of the Web yet retain the best of the old system, Elhill.

- To introduce librarians to IGM & PubMed, the online training center is conducting transition classes across the country. Due to the overwhelming interest of librarians to the classes offered in Los Angeles, additional classes have been scheduled and trainers will be teaching at PSRML for a whole week, starting March 16. In October the trainers will be in Tucson for a class. The Transition class, created for Elhill searchers, is a one day free class. For new searchers there is a two-day class to be taught in Los Angeles and Tucson. See *Latitudes* v. 6, no. 6, Nov/Dec

1997 for class details and schedule for 1998.

- In response to demand from the region, the RML has been teaching a 2.5 hour class covering the essentials of IGM & PubMed for command language searchers. We have been targeting areas where the National Online Trainers will not be teaching and where it would mean some expense to attend either the classes in Los Angeles or Tucson. Classes have been held in Hawaii, Reno NV, San Francisco and Sacramento in Northern California. A class for Las Vegas NV is being scheduled. If you are interested in having a workshop scheduled in your area, please contact Claire Hamasu at PSRML.
- Once individuals have been trained to use IGM and PubMed, or for those of you already familiar with the two interfaces, who would like to teach others to search using IGM or PubMed, we would be interested in adding your name to the PSRML consultant's registry (form available on pages 13-14) so that we may use your name as a referral. We frequently get calls from health professionals, individuals and groups, looking for instructors.
- To keep up with all PSRML, NLM, and other NN/LM activities, and to provide us with feedback, individuals in Network member libraries are encouraged to sign-up on the PSRML electronic listserv. Contact our office with your name, institution, phone number and e-mail address, and we will add you to the list. ★

New Cancer Library Opens

by Janie Grosman

A unique resource for cancer patients, their families and the clinicians who treat them has opened in Santa Rosa, California. Janie Grosman, MLIS, formerly Manager of the Sutter Resource Library in Sacramento, California is the new director of this community health library. The library is sponsored by Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital (part of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange health system) and is located at the Redwood Regional Oncology Center in Northern Santa Rosa approximately 60 miles (1 hour when there's no traffic!) north of San Francisco.

Prior to Janie's arrival, almost \$100,000 was raised to develop this resource for cancer patients and their families. Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital coordinated initial fundraising efforts with the regional oncology group and local community agencies. The interior library environment is very restful as is the exterior since the entire cancer center sits upon a hillside overlooking Santa Rosa to the West and vineyards to the East. Beautiful ash bookcases line the library walls and a special "quiet room" with leather chairs, soft lighting and a waterfall provide patrons with a place to read, meditate, listen to music or watch a videotape. Also part of the library is a large conference room that is used nightly for cancer

support groups. Hospital and community retreats are often held in the library conference room because of the serene environment.

The primary focus of the collection, of course, is cancer information, but the library also has a great deal of general health information that would be found in most consumer health collections. There are over 500 books, 100 video and audiotapes, over 60 journals, and 400 clipping files. Most of the cancer materials are organized in modular form. For example, all the books, video/ audiotapes, clippings, etc. on breast cancer are located in one place. Similarly all the materials on colon cancer are in another location. This modular form is also used for general health topics—(i.e. children's health, women's health, men's health, etc.) The NLM classification scheme was used to catalog each book, but the shelf organization is modular because of the small size of the collection. There is also a large section of materials on complementary/alternative medicine.

There are several CD-ROM programs for patrons to use, including the Infotrac Health Reference Center. There's also an Internet workstation with cancer site specific bookmarks for patrons to get to information quickly and easily with some

assurance of quality and credibility. A special feature of the workstation is the email feature where cancer patients and families can go immediately to support group archives and read what others with the same diagnosis are saying and post personal questions of their own. This feature is becoming very popular since many patients have no Internet hookup at home. Classes on using the internet to locate cancer information are becoming very popular with patients as well as their extended families.

The library is on DOCLINE and hopes to increase the journal holdings in the coming year to include additional clinical resources for hospital personnel and cancer clinicians.

At this point in time, there is no special name for the library so you can refer to it as:

Cancer Library & Health
Resource Center
Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital
3555 Round Barn Circle
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

The library is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Voice: 707-522-6883

Fax: 707-544-3766

Library Email:
cclibrary@wco.com or

Librarian Email:
grosmanj@wco.com ★

HIV/AIDS Manual on the Web

The *HIV/AIDS: Putting the Pieces Together Workshop Manual* (<http://www.auhs.edu/~AIDSinfo>) was recently revised under an NLM contract (purchase order number 467-MZ-701531) by the Institute of Academic Information at Allegheny University of the Health Sciences. The Manual is intended to be used as both a reference source and in conjunction with a training course. *Putting the Pieces Together* will be showcased at MLA '98 as one of the web posters.

(Prepared by Janet A. Ohles, MLS
HIV/AIDS Revision Project Coordinator
Allegheny University of the Health Sciences)

The California Statewide Serials Project Wants You!

By Heidi Sandstrom

The **Library of California** is the linkage and integration of more than 8,000 public and private libraries throughout the state of California into one pattern of mutually-sustaining cooperation and service.

The **California Statewide Serials Project (CSSP)** is a tool in support of the access services program (interlibrary loan/document delivery, patron referral and on-site services, direct loan) of the Library of California. The CSSP could also provide a means of coordinated collection development and retention for libraries throughout the state.

The CSSP upgrades and merges three major union lists of serials:

1. CALLS (academic and research libraries) resides on the MELVYL® system of the University of California.
2. CDB-S/CULP (public libraries, school libraries, community college libraries and others not included in CALLS) resides

on an automated system owned by the California State Library.

3. The Region 7 subset of SERHOLD, which resides at the National Library of Medicine (NLM)

A number of Region 7 libraries have indicated in the past that they wanted to be included in the subset of **SERHOLD** that is uploaded into this merged union list. In a few months, we will be again contacting all Region 7 libraries in California that have holdings in SERHOLD, to determine whether they would like to participate in the CSSP. At that time we will also include more detailed information about the implications of participation.

For more information about the Library of California and the California Statewide Serials Project contact:

Barbara Will, Networking Coordinator
California State Library
PO Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001
Telephone: (916) 653-7071

Help for Loansome Doc Providers

By Heidi Sandstrom

A new Internet Web page has been created for those DOCLINE libraries that provide Loansome Doc service!

Here you can access administrative information about your Loansome Doc patrons by entering your DOCLINE userid and password at the "Member Library - Home Page". For each Loansome Doc patron, you can obtain the information he/she entered on the Loansome Doc Registration Screen in IGM and PubMed. At this site, you can also generate a list of all your Loansome Doc patrons. Buttons on this page link to online help and to the NLM home page. A link to NLM's Collection Access Section has also been included for comments about this new Web page.

The URL for the "Member Library - Home Page" is: <http://tendon.nlm.nih.gov/admin.html>

Providing Loansome Doc service just got easier! If you would like to become a Loansome Doc provider and have questions, contact PSRML. ★

Web version of DOCLINE Manual Now Available

In February, NLM announced that an updated Web version of its DOCLINE Manual is available. DOCLINE is NLM's automated interlibrary loan (ILL) request routing and order referral system. The system was developed to improve document delivery service by linking the holdings of over 3,200 libraries and routing the ILL requests quickly and efficiently throughout the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM). So point and click, and keep yourself up to date!

The URL for the new Manual is: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psd/cas/docline/contents.html>.

The Changing Rural Medical Library

by Annette Gaskin, Medical Librarian

In 1997 on an outreach visit to Mammoth Hospital, Mammoth CA to teach hospital staff and physicians to use Grateful Med and Internet Grateful Med, Claire Hamasu, Outreach Coordinator learned that document delivery was being supplied by the medical library at Northern Inyo Hospital. On the way back to Los Angeles she stopped to visit the medical library and was pleased to hear that services were being extended to several other facilities in addition to Mammoth Hospital. PSRML encourages professional librarians to take a leadership role in extending their services to neighboring clinics or hospitals too small to hire a professional. PSRML outreach subcontracts are meant to foster this type of sharing of professional expertise. Information for applying for a subcontract will be distributed in mid-1998.

Our small, rural Medical Library has faced many challenges during its year of service, most of them related to our extreme location. As residents of our area say, "We're not out in the sticks; we're past the sticks!"

Northern Inyo Hospital in Bishop, California, has only 33 beds and serves a rural population of fewer than 15,000 people, spread over many square miles of the Eastern Sierra and the desert. It is at least a four-hour drive from any large hospital, a long way to drive to get advanced medical care or healthcare information. Summer and winter, tourists and sportsmen are mixed with local patients at the Hospital. In extreme emergencies, patients are flown to Reno, Nevada or over the Sierra to hospitals in the Central Valley, California.

Our one-room Medical Library originally began as a small collection overseen by a Medical Records Department employee and has developed into a well-used, current collection of core texts, medical and nursing journals, and other resources. It serves all types of healthcare personnel, delivering quick reference and research

services on a small budget to the medical community. The Hospital administrator is a strong supporter of the Library and acknowledges the need for a professional librarian to be employed.

In the last few years, as cooperation among the small rural hospitals in the area has grown, the library has become a resource center for the medical staffs of three small hospitals at Mammoth Lakes (40 miles north), at Lone Pine (45 miles south) plus an emergency medical clinic at Tonopah, Nevada. These are such small institutions that they do not warrant even basic reference collections and must rely on our texts and journals. Using Grateful Med has helped them a great deal, but most requests for information are from physicians and nurses wanting quick answers or needing comprehensive literature searches.

Physicians send patients who need information about their conditions to the Medical Library, and our local public libraries and school also request information for patient education. Sometimes high school science students will work on projects overseen by hospital laboratory technicians

and will rely on the library for support. We supply information by phone, FAX and e-mail and regular mail. The daily Lad Courier carries our literature searches to Lone Pine and Mammoth Lakes.

Thanks to the Internet, things are changing fast! Rural medical librarians don't have to work in isolation, as we did several years ago. Remember when we had to travel to training courses given several hundred miles away even to learn to use MEDLINE?

Now, the whole world is at our fingertips! NLM's PubMed gives access to literature searches for everyone, whether it's an emergency room physician in Tonopah or one of the medical staff in Lone Pine. In our hospital, each day brings word of new medical Web sites from people passing the library's door. "Have you seen....?" A physician or nurse will say. "Let me show you!" It's exiting, and it looks like we're only beginning to see the benefits of access to the Internet.

So now we have our beautiful mountains, our peaceful valleys....and information, too! ☼

GARBAGE IN, GARBAGE OUT!

Heidi Sandstrom

SERHOLD Updating Deadline: May 31, 1998

EVERY library with holdings records in the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) SERIALS HOLDINGS database, SERHOLD, must make sure that its serials holdings records accurately reflect its library's holdings. This ensures that DOCLINE requests and referrals route accurately and efficiently.

Serials holdings records must be updated via the Online SERHOLD Updating System, except for Stanford University, and those VA libraries which update through VALNET. Each library is responsible for updating its own serials holdings records, but may designate an individual outside of the library to do the actual data entry. A list of individuals willing to update records for a nominal fee will be sent to participating libraries in March.

The ideal is to keep your library's serials holdings records up to date in SERHOLD as changes are made to your collection. If the reality is that you (1) have not updated your records (2) are getting requests for items you don't have or (3) are not getting requests for items you do have, make sure your records are updated in SERHOLD by the May deadline!

Our yearly Region 7 tape will be ordered from NLM immediately following this deadline, and any subsequent requests for union list products will be filled using this new tape. We will not have the opportunity to order a tape from NLM again until May of 1999.

Remember, DOCLINE routing is entirely dependent on the quality of each library's serials holdings records in SERHOLD. Please help yourself and your library colleagues to provide the optimal sharing of resources within our Region!

If you are having difficulties with equipment or telecommunications software, or if you need training or training manuals, first contact your Area SERHOLD Coordinator. If you do not know who your Coordinator is or you need additional assistance, don't hesitate to contact Heidi Sandstrom at PSRML at 1 (800) 338-7657 or by email at heidits@library.ucla.edu.

Trash those out-of-date records! ♣

NLM Selects Integrated Library System to Support Basic Library Functions

From the NLM Web Page

As a Federal Reinvention Laboratory under the National Performance Review, the National Library of Medicine (NLM), is undergoing a transition from its mainframe legacy systems to a more modern client/server environment.

As part of this effort, NLM has selected Voyager, developed by Endeavor Information Systems Inc., as the library's new integrated library system to support its basic library functions. Voyager will replace a number of internal custom-built systems developed at NLM over the last 25 years.

Voyager, an integrated information management system designed for academic and research libraries, will be used by NLM for acquisitions, serials control, cataloging, collection management, circulation, preservation, binding, and an Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC). The OPAC will provide the retrieval engine for online access to the Library's cataloging records for monographs, audiovisuals, and serials, replacing existing online access mechanisms such as Locator, CATLINE, AVLINE and SERLINE.

Voyager is a fully integrated system that combines open system architecture and relational database technology. It will allow NLM to incorporate data from the ILS into its other unique applications.

NLM staff will be working with Endeavor, the developer of Voyager, to add new features to the product, including a binding module and enhancements to the closed stack request module and serials processing to meet NLM's internal processing requirements. NLM expects to begin implementation of Voyager in the fall of 1998. ♣

Consumer Health Information: A New Era

by Heidi Sandstrom

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Southwest Region, sponsored a panel on consumer health information services at February's Joint Meeting of MLGSCA & NCNMLG in Tucson. Moderated by Heidi Sandstrom, this panel addressed the spectrum of challenges facing librarians as they provide consumer health information services today and in the future. The four invited panel speakers were Becky Lyon, Head of the National Network Office of the National Library of Medicine (NLM); Janie Grosman, Director of the Cancer Library & Health Resource Center, Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital; Mary Lou Goldstein, Manager of Library Services, Scottsdale Healthcare; and Mary Beth Train, former librarian of The Health Library, a community service of Stanford University Hospital.

Ms. Lyon discussed NLM's emerging role in improving access to consumer health information and some of the internal and external factors that have influenced this role. She announced the names of the 10 consumer health titles that NLM has begun to index in MEDLINE this year. She advocated looking for partnerships with public libraries, exploring WWW capabilities, and drawing upon the wisdom of the "experts" who are already providing

consumer health information services as ways to help librarians in the hospital setting. She encouraged librarians to contact her about their consumer health information concerns.

Ms. Grosman related her experiences in meeting the patient education standards established by JCAHO, through the provision of CHI services. She emphasized the librarian's role as teacher, and the importance of finding strong allies within the organization to promote CHI services. She advocated taking an active role in developing patient education materials and in partnering with existing consumer health information services whenever possible. (see Janie's related article in this issue)

Ms. Goldstein spoke of her experiences in making her dream of establishing a Health Information Center at Scottsdale Healthcare a reality. She emphasized the importance of finding an expert in CHI services, who is willing to mentor the librarian who is just getting started in this area of health information. She included many practical tips about setting up a consumer health information service within the hospital environment and shared slides of this attractive Center with an appreciative audience!

Ms. Train explored how

librarians can reach a larger audience for their collections and services through the development of a Web site. She discussed the history behind this development at The Health Library, some of the conflicting objectives that came into play, and some of the design elements that were considered for the site. She mentioned that an important design objective was to make information resources no more than three "mouse clicks" away from the home page.

Each of these speakers possesses a wealth of information, far more than could be covered in the allotted time. Since these presentations can only be briefly highlighted here, PSRML has mounted the presentation materials on our Web site at <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/psr>. Also because of time constraints, questions that were not addressed at the end of the session were submitted to each of the speakers following the presentation; these questions and answers have also been added to the Web site.

If you had the misfortune to miss this lively panel presentation, be a virtual audience participant by visiting the PSRML Web site. Tap into the wisdom of these experts!

MLA Oral Histories

Reflections on the Past

This year, the Medical Library Association celebrates its centennial with the theme: Visions of the Future; Reflections on the Past. One method of reflecting on the past is by reading some of the association's oral histories produced by MLA's Oral History Committee. Transcripts of these interviews, made over the last few years with some of the leading personalities in librarianship, have been made available to all Regional Medical Libraries and the National Library of Medicine. The UCLA Biomedical Library, RML for this region, has a copy of most of the histories. All forty-five titles are available from NLM.

Below is a list of the titles owned by the UCLA Biomedical Library, including call numbers. Any library wishing to borrow copies of the histories may request them through DOCLINE, OCLC or an ALA form. Interlibrary loan fee for any title is \$10.00; loan period is one month. Loans are available to institutions only, not to individuals, unless they own a UCLA Library card.

If you have further questions about the tapes, you may contact Tom Flemming, Chair of the MLA Oral History Committee <tomflem@fhs.csu.McMaster.CA>

Person Interviewed	Date of Interview	Interviewer	UCLA Biomed. Library Call Number
Adams, Scott	20-Mar-80	Carol Fenichel	WZ 100 A217 1985
Annan, Gertrude L.	7-Aug-78	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 A613 1978
Austin, Robert B.	29-Sep-80	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 A937 1992
Bloomquist, Harold J.	18-19 April 1978	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 B6235 1984
Brandon, Alfred N.	26-May-85	Ruth W. Wender	WZ 100 B819 1992
Brodman, Estelle	22-Nov-78	Mrs. Bertell	WZ 100 B785 1985
Brodman, Estelle	10-May-81	Nancy Whitten Zinn	WZ 100 B785 1985
Brown, Sarah Cole	23-Mar-85	Ruth Wender	WZ 100 B8148 1991
Chase, Elizabeth	7-May-85	Carol Fenichel	WZ 100 C387 1995
Clausman, Gilbert	16-Nov-83	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 C574 1985
Crawford, Helen	21-Nov-78	Judith Overmeier	WZ 100 C857 1990
Cummings, Martin	23-Jun-87	Gerald J. Oppenheimer	WZ 100 C9124m 1987
Darling, Louise	7-8 April 1981	David Bishop	WZ 100 D249 1986
Doe, Janet	19-Aug-77	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 D67 1984
Draper, Wesley Bright	25-Mar-80	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 D791 1994
Echelmann, Shirley	7-Oct-81	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 E18 1985
Fleming, Thomas P.	16-Dec-78	Vicki Glasgow	WZ 100 F634 1993
Fleming, Thomas P.	1991	Erich Meyerhoff	WZ 100 F634 1993
Hallam, Bertha B.	12-May-78	Nancy Whitten Zinn	WZ 100 H15 1984
Hamlyn, Grace	22-Apr-83	M.A. Flower	WZ 100 H1835 1983
Hetzner, Bernice	12-Apr-84	Ruth W. Wender	WZ 100 H479 1984
Jones, M. Irene	9-Oct-78	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 J721 1984
Kerker, Ann E.	21-May-83	Nancy Whitten Zinn	WZ 100 K456 1987
Keys, Thomas	20-Apr-78	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 K523 1985
Kilgour, Frederick G.	11-May-85	R.M. Watterson	WZ 100 K553 1987
Lamb, Gertrude	24-Oct-85	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 L166 1986
Langner, Mildred	5-Dec-85	Nancy Bruce	WZ 100 L2675 1988
Lentz, Robert	12, 19 April 1984	Carolina Morris	WZ 100 L548 1994
Love, Erika	9-10 July 1986	Suzanne Porter	WZ 100 L941 1988
Marshall, Mary Louise	9-Nov-77	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 M3565 1984
Jess Martin	5-Oct-90	Anne Carroll Bunting	WZ 100 M364 1990
Mayden, Priscilla M.	25-26 July 1988	Alison Bunting	WZ 100 M4525 1988
Miller, Lois	1997 ?	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 M6148 1997
Poland, Ursula	19-20 December 1982	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 P757 1986
Poland, Ursula	4-Jan-83	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 P757 1986
Postell, William	29-Oct-77	Estelle Brodman	WZ 100 P845 1984
Prime, L. Margueriete	7-May-85	M.A. Flower	WZ 100 P935 1993
Rogers, Frank Bradway	19-Jan-79	Nancy Whitten Zinn	WZ 100 R6315 1986
Runge, Elizabeth D.	12-Mar-80	David Kronick	WZ 100 R873 1980
Sewell, Winifred	11-May-84	Carol Fenichel	WZ 100 S517 1988
Taine, Seymour	4-Oct-82	Carol Fenichel	WZ 100 T136 1984
Troxel, Wilma	14-Feb-86	M.A. Flower	WZ 100 T759 1992
Washburn, Donald	9-May-83	Nancy Zinn	WZ 100 W272 1996

Transitioning from ELHILL to PubMed

Excerpted from the *NLM Technical Bulletin*, November-December 1997

Reminder: The Technical Bulletin will be available only on the Web. Paper copies will no longer be mailed out. Starting with issues for 1998, PSRML will be publishing the Table of Contents of each issue along with selected articles, in Latitudes.

To illustrate how easy it is to convert ELHILL commands into PubMed commands, this article will transform a *Technical Bulletin* Gold Standard search strategy into a PubMed search strategy. Two of the biggest syntax hurdles will be to break the habit of using parentheses rather than square brackets to qualify search terms, e.g., [pt] not (pt), and to remember that Boolean connectors must be entered in uppercase, e.g., AND, OR, and NOT. The search "The client is a layperson who wants information on alternative treatments for breast cancer" was taken from the January-February 1997 issue. Figure 1 is the ELHILL search strategy originally formulated for CANCERLIT which explains search statements 9-11.

The PubMed Boolean Search page was used to recreate the ELHILL search strategy, in Figure 1, into a PubMed search. The Boolean Search page is best suited for constructing complex (or lengthy) search strategies—the query box is larger and scrollable which allows you to view your search strategy in full. To get there, click on Advanced Search from

PubMed's Homepage and then click on the [Boolean Search](#) link.

Before you continue reading, at this point if you are still not familiar with PubMed, it is recommended that you review the listing of PubMed's search rules and syntax on Page 12. Otherwise, the translation detailed below from ELHILL language to PubMed may not be as clear.

The query box on the Boolean Search page must contain the entire search strategy as a single search statement as illustrated in Figure 2. The first step in

Figure 2 - ELHILL search converted to PubMed

alternative medicine [majr] OR holistic health [majr] OR wit and humor [majr] OR psychotherapy [majr] AND breast neoplasms [majr] OR breast neoplasms/diet therapy [majr] AND english [la] AND human [mh] AND 1991:1996 [dp]

converting the ELHILL search strategy into a single search statement for PubMed was to create the three search

statements that would be OR'd together (i.e., 3 or 5 or 6). Each of those search statements converted into a PubMed search statement follows:

SS 3: breast neoplasms [majr]
AND alternative medicine [majr]
SS 5: holistic health [majr] OR wit
and humor [majr] OR
psychotherapy [majr] AND breast
neoplasms [majr]
SS 6: breast neoplasms/diet
therapy [majr]

Note: PubMed automatically explodes MeSH terms, whereas on ELHILL you must specify whether or not a term is to be exploded (e.g., breast neoplasms [majr] is equivalent to exp *breast neoplasms). The ability to turn off an automatic explode will be available soon. So, keep in mind that the same syntax is used for terms that are explodable as well as for terms that do not have any indentions. For example, the MeSH terms, "Holistic Health" and "Wit and Humor" (neither have indentions) are entered as holistic health [majr] and wit and humor [majr] and the explodable MeSH term "Psychotherapy" is entered as psychotherapy [majr].

Figure 1 - ELHILL Search Strategy

SS 1: exp *breast neoplasms
SS 2: exp *alternative medicine
SS 3: 1 and 2
SS 4: *holistic health or *wit a#d humor or exp
*psychotherapy
SS 5: 1 and 4
SS 6: exp *breast neoplasms/dh
SS 7: 3 or 5 or 6
SS 8: 7 contains eng (la) and 7 contains human (mh)
SS 9: 8 and 96 (yr) or 8 and 95 (yr) or 8 and 94 (yr)
SS 10: 8 and 93 (yr) or 8 and 92 (yr) or 8 and 91 (yr)
SS 11: 9 or 10

Boolean search statements are processed left to right. To change the order in which PubMed processes a search statement, enclose the individual concept in parentheses. The terms inside a set of parentheses are processed as a unit and then incorporated into the overall strategy. Below are two examples of how the above PubMed search statements can be OR'd together with or without parentheses:

(continued on page 12)

(Transitioning to PubMed, continued from page 11)

Example #1: breast neoplasms [majr] AND alternative medicine [majr] OR (holistic health [majr] OR wit and humor [majr] OR psychotherapy [majr] AND breast neoplasms [majr]) OR breast neoplasms/diet therapy [majr]

Example #2: alternative medicine [majr] OR holistic health [majr] OR wit and humor [majr] OR psychotherapy [majr] AND breast neoplasms [majr] OR breast neoplasms/diet therapy [majr] PubMed can handle large explosions for over 9 million citations in a blink of an eye. While you should apply logic in formulating a search, all those lessons about segmenting your terms into separate search statements for computer and cost-efficiency are just not vital to the new PubMed technology. That said, however, PubMed includes a “detail” button where you are able to view a picture of the strategy—similar to Internet Grateful Med’s “Details of Search” button. Here we will provide clarifying messages such as terms that have no postings. In addition, this feature includes an edit function so that a search strategy can be easily revised and resubmitted; and intermediate postings shown.

The remaining portion of the search strategy is to apply the search limiters for language (i.e., english), study group (i.e., human), and a date range (i.e., articles published during 1991-1996). Whereas, on ELHILL to apply the desired limits in CANCERLIT took an additional four steps (i.e., ELHILL search statements 8-11), this can be easily translated on PubMed into the syntax below and then added (ANDed) to the search strategy.

english [la] AND human [mh] AND 1991:1996 [dp]

To ensure that the ELHILL search strategy was correctly converted to PubMed, the search strategies were run in their respective systems to compare search results. The ELHILL search was run in MEDLINE, MED93, and MED90. In both ELHILL and PubMed, the results were the same — 37 was the total postings.

If you have any questions or comments about the PubMed search strategy, please contact PubMed customer support by clicking on the “Help Desk” link.

Helpful Hint:

While constructing a complex (or lengthy) search strategy for PubMed, it is helpful to use your word processing software as a scratch pad. Use the word processing software to enter your search terms, the correct syntax (e.g., search field tags enclosed in square brackets, Boolean connectors in all uppercase), and spell check. It helps to use extra spaces or blank lines to separate your concepts for ease of proofreading and checking your logic. Once you are satisfied with the search strategy, “copy and paste” it into the PubMed query box. Be sure to remove all extra spaces, hard carriage returns or other special word processing codes. You can then go back to the search strategy in your word processing software to edit or reformulate the search strategy—quickly and easily. Repeating the “copy and paste” step into the PubMed query box will then let you execute the revised strategy with just a few clicks. ★

PubMed Search Rules and Syntax

Excerpted from the *NLM Technical Bulletin*, November-December 1997

Boolean Syntax:

1. Boolean operators, AND, OR, NOT must be entered in UPPER-CASE. Please note that the ELHILL connector “and not” is simply the single word NOT on PubMed.

Because PubMed only recognizes Boolean operators in uppercase, it is no longer necessary to use a symbol to disguise MeSH terms that contain Boolean operators. For example, the MeSH term Wit and Humor must be entered in ELHILL as wit a#d humor using the hash mark to “hide” the word and. But in PubMed you simply enter wit and humor [mh].

2. PubMed processes all Boolean connectors in a left-to-right sequence. You can change the order in which PubMed processes a search statement by enclosing an individual concept in parentheses. The terms inside the set of parentheses will be processed as a unit and then incorporated into the overall strategy. On ELHILL, all AND statements are processed first.

3. When you enter a Boolean search statement, PubMed will automatically parse the search terms on either side of the Boolean operator into a single phrase. For example, cigarette smoking AND therapy will only search for cigarette smoking as a phrase, not cigarette AND smoking AND therapy.

In addition, if PubMed finds a phrase within a search strategy string that uses unqualified terms it will automatically search the terms as a phrase rather than simply combining them. For

(continued on page 15)



CONSULTANTS REGISTRY LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES NN/LM PSR

The National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Pacific Southwest Region (NN/LM PSR), is updating its registry of self-selected information professionals who are willing to serve as consultants on a variety of issues to existing health sciences libraries/resource centers; to institutions without professional knowledge-based information services; or to individual health professionals in our Region. Please complete this form and return to PSRML if you are interested in providing any of the services listed and would like to be included in our registry for referral. Your name, phone number, etc. will be provided to requests for assistance within the particular area(s) you specify. Such referrals do not obligate you to any specified amount of consulting time and/or charges. Thank you for your willingness to share your expertise with those in our Region!

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(continued on page 14)

(Consultants Registry, continued from page 13)

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 Los Angeles, CA 90095-1798
 (310) 825-1200 FAX: (310) 825-5389

(PubMed Search Rules, continued from page 12)

example, if you enter air bladder fistula in the PubMed query box, PubMed will search “air bladder” as a phrase. If you do not want this automatic phrase parsing enter each term separated by the Boolean operator AND, e.g., air AND bladder AND fistula.

Truncation:

1. To truncate a term, use an asterisk (*) at the end of a search term. For example, bacter* will retrieve bacteria, bacterium, bacteriophage, etc. OR'd together automatically. Whereas on ELHILL, in addition to using the colon truncation symbol, you have to use the instruction word “all” to avoid getting an ELHILL Multi-Meaning message (e.g., all bacter:).

Note: There is no single-character truncation symbol such as the pound sign (#) used on ELHILL.

Date and Date Range Format:

1. Dates or date ranges must be entered using the format YYYY/MM/DD [dp], e.g. 1997/10/06 [dp]. The month and day are optional (e.g., 1997 [dp] or 1997/03 [dp]). To enter a date range, insert a colon (:) between each date (e.g., 1993:1995 [dp] or 1997/01:1997/06 [dp]).

Note: To specify a publication date or range, it is recommended that you search only by year (e.g., 1996 [dp] or 1995:1997 [dp]). Journals vary in the way the publication date appears. Some journals include just the year, whereas others include the year plus month or year plus month plus day. And, some journals use the year and season (e.g., Winter

1997). The publication date is recorded as it appears in the journal.

Search Field Qualification:

Terms can be qualified using PubMed's search field tags. Note: A list of search field tags is available in PubMed's online help under Search Fields.

1. Terms must be post-qualified, such as aromatherapy [mh] not [mh] aromatherapy.

2. Search field tags must be enclosed in brackets, e.g., [mh] not (mh).

3. Case does not matter nor does spacing, e.g., crabs [mh] = Crabs[mh].

4. Terms that are qualified with the Text Words field tag [tw] will be searched for in the Title, Abstract, MeSH headings and Subheadings, and Names of Substance. Whereas, on ELHILL Subheadings are not included in a Text Word search. Some additional fields will be added to PubMed's [tw] soon.

MeSH Terms, Subheadings, and Language

MeSH Terms:

1. MeSH Terms must be qualified using the search field tags, e.g., [mh] for MeSH Terms or [majr] for Major MeSH Topic. The asterisk (*) which on ELHILL is used for MeSH Major Topic is reserved for truncation in PubMed.

2. MeSH terms are automatically exploded to include the more specific terms. The ability to turn

off this automatic explosion is coming soon to PubMed.

Note: Searching with MeSH terms will exclude PREMEDLINE citations as they have not yet been indexed with MeSH.

Subheadings:

1. You can directly attach subheadings using the format MeSH Term/subheading (spelled out), e.g., neoplasms/diet therapy [majr]. The ability to use the two-letter subheading abbreviations will be available soon. In addition, only one subheading may be directly attached to a MeSH term, e.g., neoplasms/diet therapy [majr] OR neoplasms/drug therapy [majr]

2. The Subheading field and search field tag (e.g., [sh]) will be available soon in PubMed so that multiple Subheadings can be “free-floated” in a search strategy.

Language:

1. Language must be spelled out. The 3-character abbreviation search (e.g., eng) is coming soon to PubMed.

Note: The ELHILL expression “and not for (la)” was devised to aid in computer efficiency. Negating about 25% of MEDLINE citations (those that are foreign language) is much more efficient and less costly than limiting to 75% of MEDLINE (those that are English) on ELHILL. This shortcut is not necessary on PubMed. So, you can now use the syntax AND english [la] on PubMed without worrying about overloading the system. ★

Upcoming Events

March 1998

18-19 (Two-day class)
Introduction to Web-based Searching...
Los Angeles, CA

16, 17, 20, 21 (One-day class)
*Making the Transition: Converting to
PubMed and Internet Grateful Med...*
Los Angeles, CA

May 1998

22-27 *MLA '98*
Philadelphia Marriott
Philadelphia, PA

31 SERHOLD Updating Deadline

Welcome Back!

We are delighted to announce the appointment of **Judy Consales** as Information Technology Coordinator. As many of you know, Judy worked several years in PSRML as the head of our Online Training Program, until her move to Northern California in 1996. I know you will join us in welcoming her back to PSRML.

Judy will start her new position March 2nd and will be working with Network Members to assist them in accessing and using the Internet, as well as serving as our Web Master.

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